identifiers identify an order of the nodes in the XML document. The method also includes

converting each node of the XML document into a respective row of the relational database.

Another aspect of the invention provides a method of forming a relational database from

an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document. The method includes assigning an identifier

A1 Cnlld. to the XML document and creating a row of the relational database that includes the identifier,

and content of one of the plurality of nodes that makes up the XML document.

Yet another aspect of the invention provides a relational database. The database includes

a row containing content from a node of an Extensible Markup Language (XML) document. The

row also includes an XML document identifier.

The invention will next be described in connection with certain illustrated embodiments

and practices. However, it will be clear to those skilled in the art that various modifications,

additions and subtractions can be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the claims.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-6 and please add the following new Claims 7-25:

SUB B17 7. (New) A method of forming a relational database from an Extensible Markup Language

(XML) document formed of a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

A2 Cm't assigning an identifier to every node of the XML document;

assigning a respective sequence identifier to each node of the XML document; wherein

said respective sequence identifiers identify an order of the nodes in the XML document; and,

converting each node of the XML document into a respective row of the relational

database.